

East Longmeadow Council on Aging (COA)
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 – Board Meeting Minutes

- I. Meeting called to order at 8:57AM by Chairperson Barbara J. Farrell. Members were notified the meeting was being recorded.

- II. Members, Staff and Invited Guest Present:
Mary Beth Dowd, Alicia Smith, Barbara Farrell, Doreen Harrison, Jane Desilets, Joseph Barker, Julie Dunlop, Tim Sheranko, Theresa Govoni-Moylan, Sharon Giordano. Invited guest: Lucila Prates-Ramos, Director of the Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol Program

- III. Approval of December 15, 2020 and January 12, 2021 Meeting Minutes:
Approval of both meeting minutes accepted with the correction of Theresa Gavani-Moyan's name to Theresa Govoni-Moylan.

- IV. Director's Report:
The Department of Public Health and the Fire Department assisted in giving Covid-19 vaccine shots to East Longmeadow (EL) seniors (75 years or older). Over 100 vaccines were dispensed. Trolley vans transported those who needed transportation. Vaccines are scheduled until February 18, 2021.

The Massachusetts Council on Aging (MCOA) is accepting proposals for grants. The money needs to be used by June 1, 2021. The EL COA applied and would use the money to purchase iPads for senior residents without computers.

The other grant focuses on nutrition. COA staff would use the monies for a drive-thru dinner to mirror previous dinners provided by Fazio's Restaurant. The free dinner would feed 100 seniors.

The individual working on the Mobile Food Pantry had weekly hours increased to keep up with the demand of participants. St. Michael's Church, Stop and Shop grocery store and the library are holding food drives to increase supplies in the pantry.

A ZOOM meeting will take place on March 13, 2021 regarding visioning the future of EL.

- V. Program/Volunteer Coordinator Report:
An online Italian Class will begin the end of February 2021.

Bingo continues with many participants. Gifts (as prizes) are provided by donations from business' , organizations and individuals..

The AARP starts its tax preparation program February 16, 2021, ending the end of March. The program is completely booked.

The EL Library delivers movies and books to EL senior residents who cannot get out.

VI Committee Reports:

- a. AAA – There wasn't a meeting on February 8, 2021. The AAA is a network advisory board between COA's.
- b. GSSSI – Many members resigned from Greater Springfield Senior Services (GSSSI). Representatives from surrounding towns of Springfield get together to look at the big picture affecting all towns.

VII Emergency Planning

- a. The next meeting will be held in March.

VIII New Business:

- a. Lucilia Prates-Romas, Director of the Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP) Program joined the meeting describing the SMP Program. The program is a national initiative with a vision to empower consumers to understand Medicare benefits. SMP works with the SHINE Program and incur referrals from many agencies. Lucilia stressed consumers need to be vigilant dealing with Medicare.

IX Old Business:

- a. The board's review of its Bylaws was postponed until the March 2021 Meeting.
- b. The vaccine clinic report is under the director's report.
- c. "A Pleasant View" 2nd episode in January was a success.
- d. Two occupants can now ride on the Tri-Town Trolley.

X Next Meeting Date:

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 9:00 AM via ZOOM.

XI Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 10:01AM.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Desilets
February 9, 2021